

MAY 12 '24

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1.(18) (Fade in)-

(Yale Seal)  
Yale University Press  
Presents  
THE CHRONICLES OF AMERICA

A series of photoplays in which is seen  
the making of a great nation.

Pathepicture  
Trademark

(Fade Out)

2.(20) (Fade in)  
The historical accuracy of this presentation  
of an important event in American History is  
guaranteed by the painstaking work of a  
number of distinguished historians.

Approved by the Council's Committee on  
Publications of Yale University

Fade out)

3.(25) (Fade in)  
Long shot of table with row of books. A  
man enters scene, picks up one of the books,  
and holds it in his hand. Lap dissolve to  
back of book, closeup. Hand turns book to  
front cover, which reads:  
The Eve of the Revolution  
(Chronicle's Device)  
by  
Carl Becker

(12) Hand opens book to Title Page, which reads  
as follows:

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Adapted from  
"The Eve of the Revolution"  
A Chronicle Written by  
Carl Becker

(Book Device)

Copyright, 1924, by  
The Chronicles of America  
Picture Corporation

(Fade out)

4.(12)

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

✓ Adapted by  
William Basil Courtney ✓

Directed by  
Kenneth Webb

Copyright, 1924, by  
The Chronicles of America  
Picture Corporation

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(Fade out)

5.(22)

Fade in.

The Persons in the Picture

John Adams.....	S.W. Nicholis
Benjamin Franklin .....	J. Moye Bennett
Thomas Jefferson.....	Frederick J. Spender
John Dickinson.....	Gordon Standing
Thomas Paine.....	Douglas R. Dumbrille
Sam Adams.....	John Newton
John Hancock.....	Warner Richmond
Charles Carroll.....	John Dunton
The Tory.....	Henry W. Pemberton
Richard Henry Lee.....	Allan Lee
Caesar Rodney.....	W. Wallace Jones

(Fade out)

6.( 8) Fade in.

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Passed by: The National Board of Review

(Fade out)

7.(26)

(Fade in)

Early in 1776, the Continental Congress was drifting steadily toward a Declaration that the revolted American Colonies were free and independent states, absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown.  
(Interpose to)

8.(23) The advocates of independence wisely refrained from forcing the issue until satisfied that all the state delegations might be brought to unite in making the Declaration UNANIMOUS--  
(Interpose to scene of man selling papers,  
On this scene this title is superimposed:)

9.(14) The Independence leaders were powerfully aided by the publication in January, 1776,  
of a fiery pamphlet --  
(Title fades out leaving the scene which interposes to:)

10.(18) Close up of outside of pamphlet "COMMON SENSE"

COMMON SENSE

Addressed to the  
INHABITANTS  
of  
AMERICA

On the following interesting

SUBJECTS

1. On the origin and designs of Government, in general, with concise remarks on the English Constitution.
2. Of Monarchy and Hereditary Succession.
3. Thoughts on the present state of American Affairs.
4. Of the present ability of America with some miscellaneous reflection.

Man knows no master; save creating Heaven  
Or those whom choice and common good ordain.  
Thomson.

---

Philadelphia  
Printed and sold by R. Bell on Third Street

MDCCLXXVI  
(Interpose to closeup of a paragraph)

11.(31) Insert: - Paragraph from pamphlet "Common Sense"  
- but many strong and striking reasons may be given, to show, that nothing can settle our affairs so expeditiously as an open and determined declaration for Independence:  
Some of which are, (Fade out)

- 12.( 8)      Fade in.  
In Philadelphia on an afternoon in February,  
1776 -  
(Fade out)
- 13.( 7)      John Adams, delegate from Massachusetts to  
the Continental Congress --
- 14.(12)      Extract from Adams' letter of February 18,  
1776, to his wife:  
My dear wife: (Interpose to)  
I sent you from New York a  
pamphlet entitled "Common Sense"  
written in vindication of doctrines--
- 15.( 4)      Benjamin Franklin, of Philadelphia.
- 15\*( 4)      Insert:- as in film -- Book--  
  
COMMON SENSE  
Addressed  
To The  
Inhabitants  
of America
- 16.(9 )      "A fine book, isn't it, sir? Since my  
husband read it he's warm for independence."
- 17.(11)      "My young friend Thomas Paine has indeed  
made excellent use of the great power of  
the printing press -- "
- 18.( 4)      "General Washington writes from Boston -- "
- 19.(12)      Extract from letter in Washington's hand-  
writing:  
  
-we have every reason to convince us, that  
we have to contend with a formidable army,  
well provided -
- 20.( 4)      "We cannot win the war without foreign aid!"
- 21.(10)      "While England's blockade throttles our trade  
our chief hope is alliance with a naval  
power!"
- 22.( 6)      "One nation above all others would like to  
see England humbled - "

- 23.(15) "Yes, France! But she will help only when she sees that we want independence from England - not merely reconciliation with England."
- 24.(12) (Fade in)  
An evening, some weeks later, in that memorable year of 1776 -  
(Fade out)  
Pathepicture Trademark.
- 25.( 4) Thomas Paine, author of "Common Sense/."
- 26.( 6) "It is not safe to talk disrespectfully of His Majesty!"
- 27.( 7) "Stand for Independence - and throw off the fear of kings forever!"
- 28.(10) (Fade in)  
Political differences had not affected social relations -  
(fade out)
- 29.( 8) "Your cousin Samuel would be more at home arguing politics in some attic clubroom!"
- 30.( 7) "There's Rutledge, to tell Sam the political news of South Carolina!"
- 31.( 3) Just one of the "common people."
- 31\*( 7) A wealthy Tory merchant, one of the class that still favored monarchism -
- 31\*\*( 3) Insert:-~~F~~oreground of ribbon with the word  
INDEPENDENCE?
- 32.( 7) " - you had better bestir yourself to repay the money you owe me, or I'll - "
- 33.( 5) "He'll close my mouth by sending me to a debtors' prison."

- 34.( 6) "When we get independence there'll be no more courts for prisons!"
- 35.( 5) "There's what separation from England would mean!"
- 36.( 7) "Rather, separation would stamp out the injustices that breed anarchy!"
- 37.( 9) "The English Constitution must prevail - It is the only security we have for life and fortune."
- 38.( 4) Richard Henry Lee of Virginia -
- 39.(12) John Dickinson of Pennsylvania, the able leader of those who still clung to the hope of reconciliation with England -
- 40.( 8) "To my hope that Virginia will instruct me to propose Independence in Congress!"
- 41.(10) "Mr. Adams, why do you persistently oppose conciliatory measures such as our petition to the King?"
- 42.( 6) "But the King did not even give you the courtesy of a reply!"
- 43.( 7) "Many of us will break off from you if you don't concur in our policy of peace."
- 44.( 4) THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE  
(Yale Seal)  
End of Part One.  
  
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- 45.( 6) THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE  
(Yale Seal)  
Part Two.  
  
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- 46.( 8) "As long as the rebels quarrel amongst themselves, His Majesty's cause is safe."
- 47.(14) "Can we be reconciled with a nation that, even in peace times, forced on us such odious measures as the Quartering Act!"
- 48.( 6) "By the King's orders, four of us are to be quartered here."
- 49.( 9) "In our middle Colonies many favor reconciliation because they fear loss of their property - "
- 50.( 4) "The South has not yet felt the scourge of war - "
- 51.(12) "Gentlemen, Virginia wants Independence because the immortal words of Patrick Henry are still ringing in her ears!"  
(Fade out)
- 52.(20) (In Italics)  
"Is life so dear, or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?.... I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"
- 53.(10) "We must persist until all sections are one in sentiment - until the Thirteen Colonies are one nation!"
- 54.(11) "See! Politics are dividing even our social gatherings into three groups - royalists, moderates - and we rebels!"
- 55.(6) "Now there'll be a fourth group - the ladies and Ben Franklin!"
- 56.( 7) Fade in.  
A belated guest - John Hancock, President of the Second Continental Congress.  
(Fade out)
- 57.( 6) "Word has come that the King has hired Hessians to fight us!"

- 58.(11) "That is the protection offered us by the precious English constitution -- foreign mercenaries, to shoot us down!"
- 59.( 6) "It is His Majesty's right to deal with rebels as he pleases!"
- 60.(16) (Fade in)  
As the Spring of 1776 advanced, the activities of the independency leaders in Congress and the influence of Paine's pamphlet increased steadily.  
(Fade out)  
Pathepicture Trade Mark.
- 61.( 6) "By this work I'm earning the money to pay ~~my~~ debt to you!"
- 62.( 9) "Why does Congress meet in secret? - because its members are afraid of the King's halter!"
- 63.( 8) (Fade In)  
In Congress on June 8, 1776.  
(Fade out)
- 64.( 4) "Mr. Richard Henry Lee - "
- 65.( 3) "Now comes the first real test - "
- 66.( 9) "Resolved that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states - "
- 67.( 6) "Massachusetts seconds the motion to adopt this resolution!"
- 68.( 4) "It is plain we cannot get unanimity today!"
- 69.(18) (Fade in)  
While both sides prepared for the final vote, Congress appointed a Committee to prepare a formal declaration, citing motives which might justify the colonies, in the judgment of mankind -  
(Fade out)



70.(11) The committee had assigned the composition of the Declaration to its most gifted member - Thomas Jefferson.

70\*(10) Insert- as in film-- foreground of manuscript:--

A DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE  
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ETC

71.(12) "Is it true, as I hear whispered everywhere, that Congress is going to take a secret vote tomorrow on Independence?"

72.( 5) "Perhaps so, but small use if the vote is not unanimous - "

73.(14) "Pennsylvania opposes Independence because four of her delegates are too pigheaded to realize they no longer represent our people!"

74.( 6) "Of the four he calls pigheaded, we are two, friend Morris - "

75.( 7) "We could not be trustworthy if we voted against our true convictions - "

76.(12) (Fade in)  
Few delegates slept as that hot night of the 1st of July, 1776, closed down upon Philadelphia.

77.(12) "If Dickinson and Morris will only have the grace to remain away tomorrow my vote and Morton's will give us Pennsylvania - "

78.( 3) THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE  
(Yale Seal )  
End of Part Two  
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Trademark.

79.( 5)

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE  
(Yale Seal)  
Part Three  
Pathe Distributors  
Pathepicture  
Trademark

80.( 13)

"Delaware stands one and one - her third delegate, Ceasar Rodney, who would be for liberty is away at his home, Alas!"

81.( 4)

Thomas McKean, Chairman of the Delaware Delegation -

82.( 7)

"I have sent for Rodney - if he rides hard all night, he may arrive in time!"

83.(14)

"The New York delegation is not authorized to vote on independence - but if all the other colonies vote aye, we could consider that unanimous."

84.(12)

"South Carolina's delegates were instructed to join in such measures as would best promote the interests of all - perhaps - "

85.( 8)

(Fade in)  
At the headquarters of the South Carolina delegation -

86.(10)

"We must decide whether our instructions are broad enough to let us vote for independence!"

87.( 8)

(Fade in)  
The momentous second day of July, 1776 -  
(Fade out)  
Pathepicture Trademark.

88.( 6)

"The voting will begin in a minute - any sign of Rodney yet?"

89.( 4)

"See! Dickinson and Morris are not yet here."

90.(13)

"I am glad to see you walking away from that traitors' nest today - congratulations on your brave stand for the king!"

- 90\* ( 8) "You misjudge me, sir, I do not oppose independence through love for an unjust monarch."
- 91.(11 ) "I do not think independence wise at present- but if Congress votes for it, I shall stand by my country!"
- 92.( 4) "Massachusetts votes AYE!"
- 93.( 4) "Delaware votes AYE!"
- 94.( 4) "Pennsylvania votes AYE!"
- 95.( 3) "South Carolina votes - "
- 96.( 3) "AYE!"
- 97.( 4) " That makes it unanimous!"
- 98.(10) (Fade in)  
On the 4th of July, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was officially adopted -  
(Fade out)
- 99.(12) "I will sign this document now before it is sent to the official printer - we will arrange a date for the rest of you to sign."
- 100.(10) " - and sign it all of you will, I know! There must be no pulling apart - we must all hang together!"
- 101.( 9) "Yes, we must indeed all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."
- 102.(12) "If it comes to hanging, Charles Carroll, you will be safe - I understand there is another Charles Carroll in Maryland!"
- 103.(10) "If Carroll signs, he will be risking more than most of us. I am told he is one of the country's richest men."

- 104.( 8) "Then I will sign as 'Charles Carroll of Carrollton' - and the king can make no mistake!"
- 105.( 7) "Look there, Hancock is going to sign! When he does the die is cast!"
- 106.( 5) Hand writes - John Hancock.
- 107.( 6) "John Bull won't need his spectacles to read that name!"
- 108.(12) Fade in.  
On the 8th of July the Declaration of Independence was made known to the people, and jubilation followed.  
(fade out)
- 109.(10) "You don't like the echoes of independence, eh? Then I don't suppose you'll like the sight of my new uniform!"
- 110.(10) "That building will live in history as the birthplace of a new power among the nations of the earth!"
- 111.(30) (Fade in)  
Insert of "Declaration" with all signatures  
(fade out)
- 112\*( 3) (Fade in)  
THE END  
Interpose to --
- 112.(18) The next in the  
YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
series of  
"The Chronicles of America"  
will be  
YORKTOWN  
A Thrilling account of Washington's  
last campaign, which won Independence  
for the United States.  
WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENT!  
PATHE  
Distributors  
(Stock trademark on either side of  
PATHE - Distributors. (Fade out)

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